

KEY CHALLENGES

Over the next five months, CoJ and community members have the opportunity to strengthen their partnership on El Kero Park by working together on two key challenges.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The first challenge on which to collaborate could be re-invigorating the park development process among community members. Although most of the other OCOB sites have a Community Participation Consultant (CPC) appointed to strengthen municipal-community collaboration, an appointment was not finalised for El Kero Recreational Park. As such, many community members that VPUU engaged with during the site visits were either unaware of the future park development, or had only discussed it once, during a workshop with Mashabane Rose in February 2020. The next steps in the process will be more robust if JDA, JCSP, CTSP and the eKhaya Neighbourhood Co-ordinator are able to re-visit that discussion with the community, provide regular updates and collect information from local experts (residents), and open up more opportunities for co-design in the park's activation plans, which may be reflected in the Management Model. A Community Action Plan (CAP) process for these engagements could increase ownership among park users and activators and bring more community members into the process outside of the eKhaya Neighbourhood network. The CAP would also provide a foundation for a community safety plan and plans to ensure that the capital investment of the city is sustained through operations, maintenance and management after implementation.



ESTABLISHING A BASELINE

In particular, workshop-type community engagements that allow JDA to establish a pre-construction “women and girls baseline” would allow for measurement of the park's post-construction impact on the targeted beneficiary population. A general socioeconomic baseline was established through the impact assessment done in 2018, and the mapping workshop by Mashabane Rose established a spatial use baseline. However, further information about the park's target group themselves is still needed. This baseline could only happen in the next few months before construction starts. It would need to establish the key criteria, frequency and methodology for future assessments measuring the impact of the park for women and girls. Such a baseline could also increase the buy-in from the community for activating the park and guide the communications strategy that will be needed, by encouraging users to envision how they will interact with the space. This will be important to the eKhaya Neighbourhood partners after construction.

THANK YOU

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